

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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P 160850Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1916

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0244

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS PFOR, PBOR, LOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH-GREEK DISPUTE OVER AEGEAN: FISHING BOAT

INCIDENT

REF ANKARA'S 3727

1. MAY 15 "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" UNDER FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE "GREEK PATROL SHIPS MAKE TURKISH FISHING VESSELS LEAVE GREEK NATIONAL WATERS" REPORTS INCIDENT CITED REFTEL. ACCOUNT FROM ALEXANDROUPOLIS STATES GREEK CAIQUE "PANTOR VASILISSA" FISHING IN AREA KNOWN AS "LADOXERA" (OIL SHALLOWS) NORTHEAST OF SAMOTHRACE ON MAY 12 WAS FORCED TO LEAVE BY "MENACING" APPROACH SEVEN OR EIGHT TURKISH FISHING SHIPS. FROM SAMOTHRACE, GREEK CAPTAIN NOTIFIED ALEXANDROUPOLIS HARBORMASTER S OFFICE, WHICH DISPATCHED PATROL BOAT TO SCENE WHERE, ACCORDING TO ACCOUNT, PATROL BOAT CREW ORDERED TURKISH FISHERMEN TO LEAVE AREA, WHICH WAS OBEYED. ARTICLE SAYS IT NOT KNOWN WHETHER TURKISH VESSELS ENTERED AREA DELIBERATELY OR WERE FORCED THERE BY STRONG WINDS, BUT IT EVIDENT THEY WERE AWARE OF LOCATION IN VIEW THEIR PROMPT COMPLIANCE WITH GREEK PATROL SHIP S INSTRUCTIONS. REPORT CONCLUDES WITH NOTE THAT "OIL SUBSTANCES" FOUND IN THIS AREA, GIVING RISE TO NAME, AND CONJECTURES POSSIBLY THIS WHY TURKS THERE "TO FIND OUT FOR THEMSELVES".

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2. ARTICLE FOLLOWED BY AP DISPATCH FROM ALEXANDROUPOLIS REPORTING

ESSENTIALLY SAME STORY WITH ADDED DETAIL OF LATER GREEK NAVY
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT DENYING TURKISH PRESS REPORT THAT GREEK
PATROL SHIP HAD FIRED AGAINST TURKISH BOATS NEAR EVROS RIVER
DELTA. AP ACCOUNT ALSO REPORTS ANOTHER INCIDENT ON MAY 14,
IN WHICH TURKISH PATROL BOATF ALLEGEDLEY CHASED GREEK
CAIQUE "CONSTANTINOS" FISHING IN GREEK TERRI-
TORIAL WATERS TO WITHIN FIFTY H METERS OF COAST OF SAMOTHRACE.

3. PRESS ALSO CARRIES REUTERS REPORT FORM ISTANBUL
THAT TURKISH FISHING BOAT "AHMED KOPUZ" WAS APPROACJED,
WARNED AWAY AND FIRED UPON BY GREEK PATROL VESSEL IN OPEN SEA
FIFTEEN KILOMETERS FROM SAMOTHRACE , ACCORDING TO
STATEMENT OF TURKISH CAPTAIN. (NO DATE GIVEN).
ARTICLE SAYS INCIDENT REPORTED TO TURKISH MINISTRY OF
INTERIOR BY GOVERNOR OF CANAKALE.
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